

HELLWITCH®

HELLBOURNE #1



PULIDO
MACLEAN
BERNARD
DE LA CRUZ
DILLON

COFFIN COMICS PRESENTS:

HELLWITCH®

HELLBOURNE #1

CHAPTER 1

Hellwitch Created by Brian Pulido



THE STORY SO FAR

Hellwitch wasn't always the dominant Hellbourne leader that she is today. Learn her origin in the pages that follow...

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Hell.
The city of DIS.
Now.

HURRY!
WE MUST
FIND HER!

IT'S A FUCKING
SLAUGHTERHOUSE.
EVEN *SHE* COULDN'T
SURVIVE THIS.

I'VE HEARD IT SAID
A THOUSAND TIMES.
"YOU CAN'T DIE IN HELL."

HEHEHEHE.
BUTCHERED 'EM
ALL. AN ITTY-BITTY
EARTHER GIRL
BUTCHERED
'EM ALL.

THIS
ONE'S USELESS.
GONE BLOODY
MAD.

THERE!

SO WHAT'S
THIS DARKNESS
CLOSING IN
ON ME?

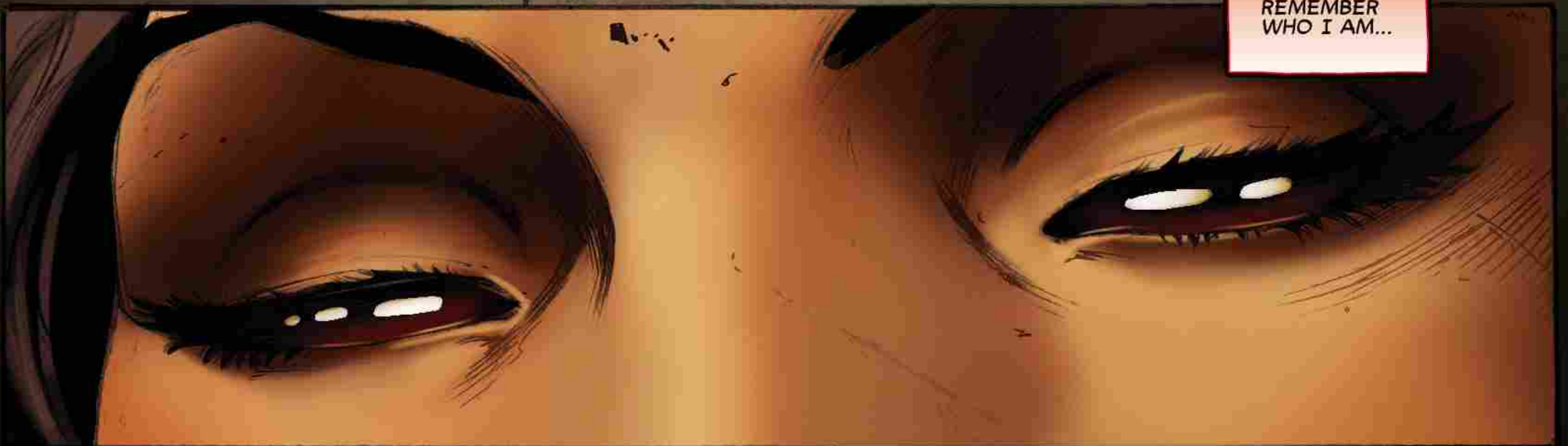
A full-page comic book illustration of a character with long, dark, wavy hair and small horns. She is wearing a black, studded bikini top and matching bottoms, along with black high-heeled boots with pointed toes. She is lying on a cracked, stone floor, surrounded by pools of blood and flames. Her right arm is raised, showing a black gauntlet with red spikes and blood. Her left hand is also in a similar gauntlet. She has a determined, almost menacing expression.

COLD, DEAD VOICES
BECKON ME TO THE
VOID. THEY WHISPER
THE WORD **OBLIVION**.

ONLY ONE CHANCE
TO ESCAPE ITS
BLACK EMBRACE.

**HELL-
WITCH!**

I MUST
REMEMBER
WHO I AM...



The Past.

I MUST REMEMBER...
WHERE I CAME FROM...

I WAS BORN OF SHIT--
THE HATCHLING OF A
SAVAGE *HIVE* TUCKED
AWAY IN THE FOULEST
CROTCH-PIT OF *HELL*.

FEEDING
TIME!

EAT UP
MY PITIFUL
PRETTIES. YOU'LL
NEED YOUR
STRENGTH.

EVERYDAY, WE STRUGGLED
FOR SURVIVAL...

FIGHTING FOR EVERY
SCRAP TOSSED TO US.

I WAS BRANDED A **PIT SLAVE**, THE LOWEST, MOST PATHETIC CASTE IN THE HIVE.

YEAR AFTER YEAR, MY HELLBOURNE BRETHREN TRIED TO GRIND ME DOWN TO NOTHING.

GAARRAH!

BUT THEIR CRUELTY ONLY MADE ME STRONGER.

THIS WAS MY CALLING. DISPOSE OF THE MAIMED AND THE CURSED.

FOR CENTURIES THEY'D CHOKE ON PUTRID BLOOD... DROWN IN LIQUEFIED FLESH... PRAYING FOR THE SWEET RELEASE OF OBLIVION THAT WOULD NEVER COME.

AT LEAST I WASN'T ONE OF THESE POOR BASTARDS.



IT WASN'T MY
TIME FOR THE PIT...
NOT YET ANYWAY.

OH HHHH.
THAT FEELS
GOOOD.

I CAN **FEEL**
THEIR LIFE
ESSENCE SEEPING
INTO MY PORES...
FEEDING ME THEIR
POWER.

HEAVY IS THE
CROWN. BUT ALL
THE DRUDGERY IS
WORTH IT FOR A
SINGLE MOMENT
OF **THIS**.

AM I BORING
YOU, DRADD?
WHAT'S MORE
IMPORTANT THAN
YOUR HIVE QUEEN'S
ATTENTION?

IT'S
NOTHING.



JUST
A FILTHY PIT
SLAVE.

SHOOOM

GAAHH!

MILADY
ONNA, KEEP
YOUR
DISTANCE--

STROM,
QUIET! I'M
JUST HAVING
FUN.

HE. HE. HE.
THAT
MUST REALLY
HURT.

I WOULDN'T
KNOW, OBVIOUSLY.
PAIN ISN'T REALLY
MY THING. NEVER FELT
IT, NEVER WILL. IT'S
A PRIVILEGE I LEAVE
FOR YOU **PIT**
LICKERS.

A WORD
OF ADVICE, MY
LITTLE WORM.
KNOW YOUR PLACE
AND KEEP YOUR
EYES TO THE
GROUND.

SOMEDAY
I'LL BE QUEEN.
AND I WON'T BE
SO FORGIVING
THEN.

NOW
GET BACK
TO FUCKING
WORK!

SO DAMN BLIND.

SATANUS...DEMONS...
EVEN FUCKING EARTHER
WITCHES TREATED HELL
LIKE THEIR PERSONAL
PLAYGROUND. SOON,
THERE'D BE NOTHING LEFT
FOR US HELLBOURNE.

BUT THE HIVE ELITE
WERE TOO BUSY
STEPPING ON OUR
NECKS TO EVEN NOTICE.

I SHOULD'VE BEEN ONE
OF THEM...A WARRIOR...
A HERO. LIKE HAXAN.

THE RIGHTEOUS FIRE
OF BATTLE WAS ALL
I EVER DREAMED OF.

BUT MY BLOOD BETRAYED
ME. I WAS BORN A SLAVE.
I'D DIE A SLAVE.

UNLESS...
I TOOK FATE INTO
MY OWN HAND.

MAY
THE HIVE
PROTECT
ME.



HOLD STILL. I'M NOT HERE TO HURT YOU.



THE QUEEN'S SIPHON BATH... IT NEARLY SENT YOU TO OBLIVION.

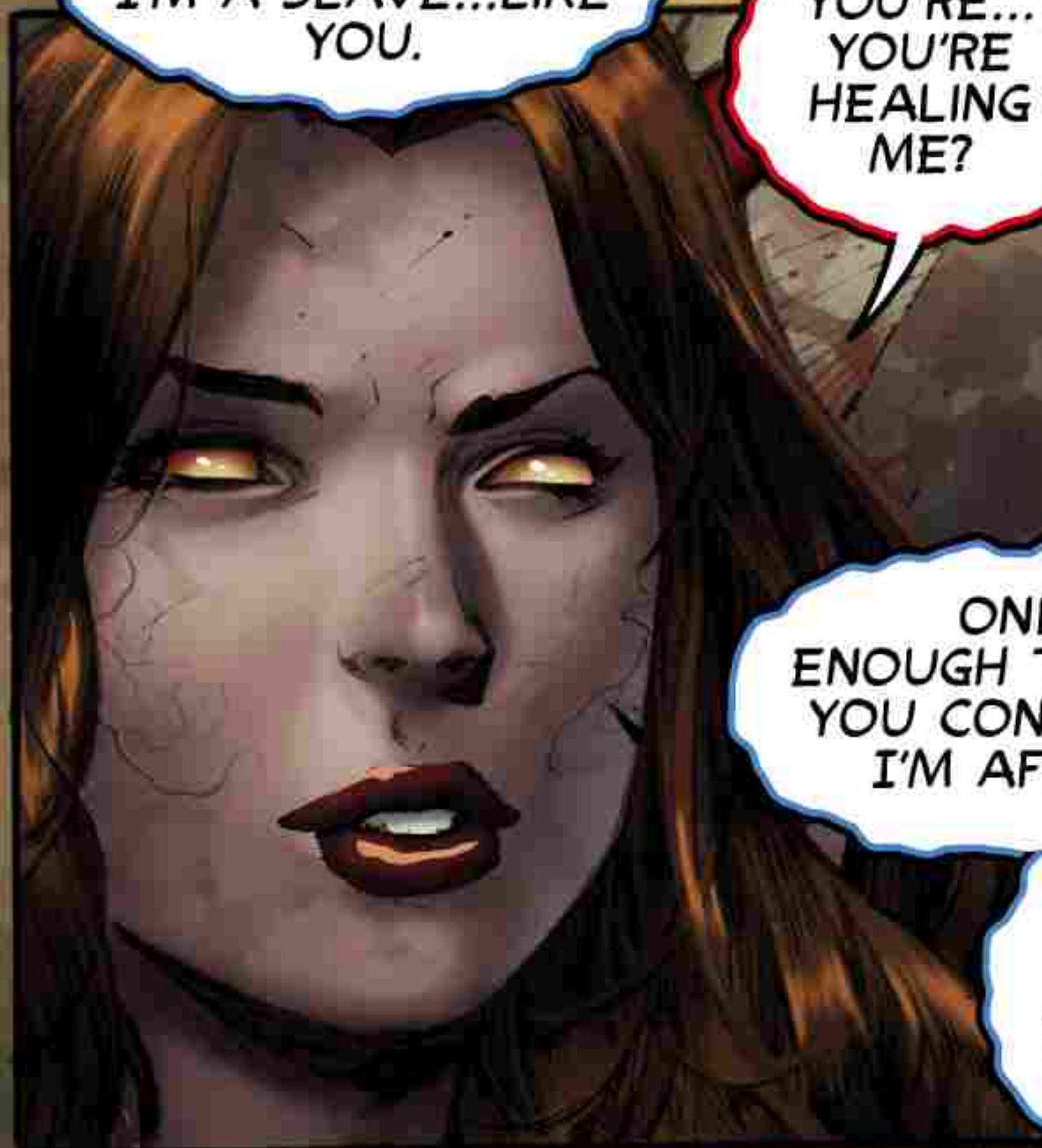
WHAT IN HELL WERE YOU THINKING? DON'T YOU KNOW, ONLY ROYAL BLOOD CAN WITHSTAND ITS POWER? IT'S A MIRACLE YOU SURVIVED.

WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU?



THEY CALL ME **GAATHA** OF THE KILLZAN HIVE. OR SHOULD I SAY **WAS** OF THE KILLZAN. THEY SOLD ME TO YOUR PEOPLE. NOW I'M A SLAVE...LIKE YOU.

YOU'RE... YOU'RE HEALING ME?



ONLY ENOUGH TO KEEP YOU CONSCIOUS, I'M AFRAID.

THE QUEEN WANTS YOU AWAKE SO YOU'LL FEEL EVERY AGONIZING MOMENT OF YOUR PUNISHMENT. WISH I COULD RELEASE YOU FROM YOUR PAIN.



I'M SO VERY SORRY.



TIME BLEED OUT SLOW.
HOURS BLURRED INTO
DAYS. I FELT NOTHING
BUT PAIN.

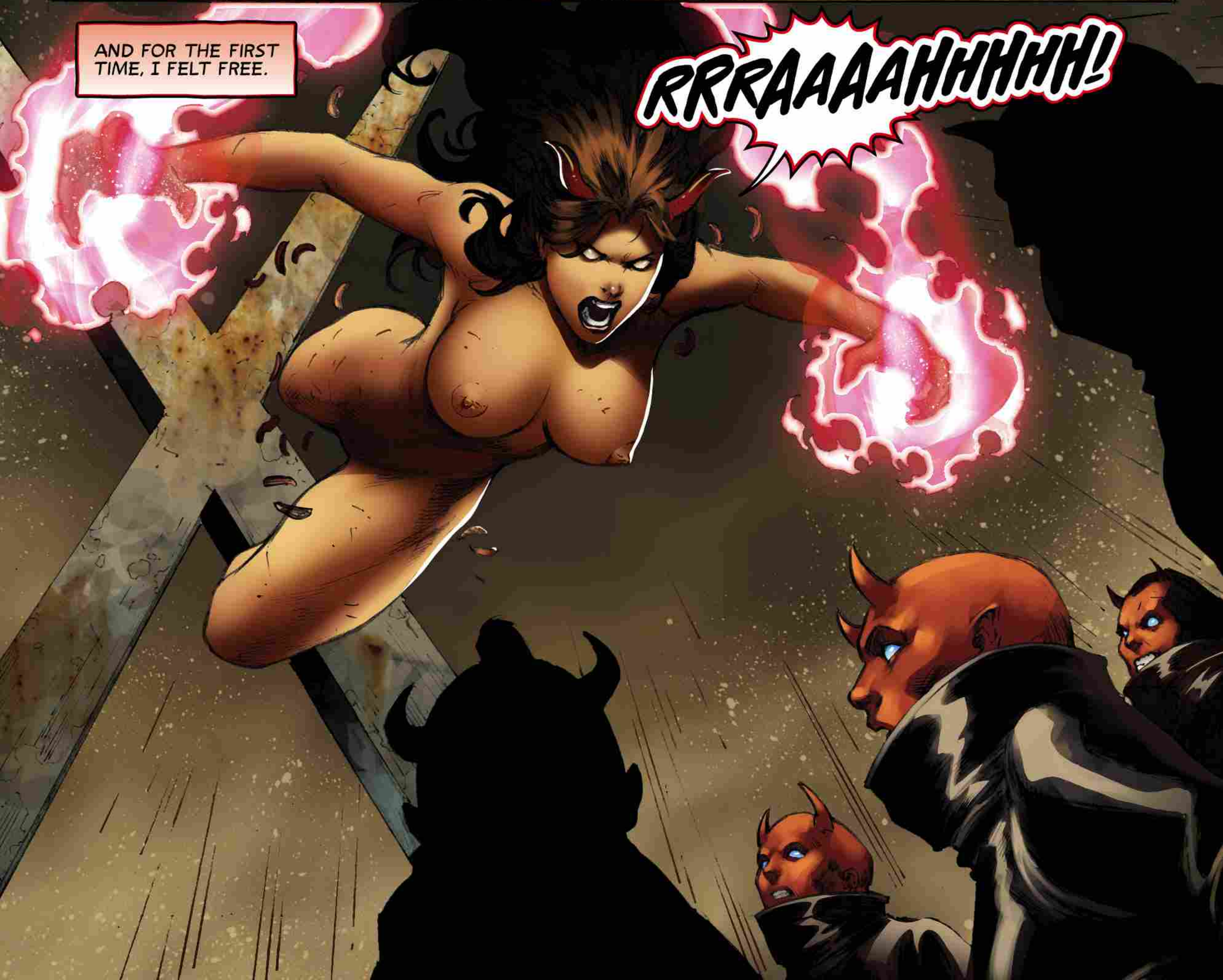


WHEN THE ASSASSINS
CAME, I DIDN'T KNOW
IF THEY WERE REAL
OR FIGMENTS OF A
FEVER DREAM.



CLINK

SOMETHING
SURGED
WITHIN ME.
MY BLOOD
RAN HOT.



AND FOR THE FIRST
TIME, I FELT FREE.

RRRAAAHHHHH!



ARGGGG!



TREACHEROUS DOGS!

YOU INVADE MY HIVE?

MY HIVE!



YOU SHOULD BE TURNING YOUR BLADES ON THE COLONIZERS, DEMONKIND, NOT ON YOUR FELLOW NATIVE HELLBOURNE.

HURRY, BROTHERS. CUT THE BITCH DOWN! BEFORE SHE ALERTS THEIR WARRIORS.



CHUNK

DON'T FEAR OUR WARRIORS, YOU TRAITOROUS SHIT-BAG.



FEAR ME!



HOW...
HOW DID
I DO
THAT?

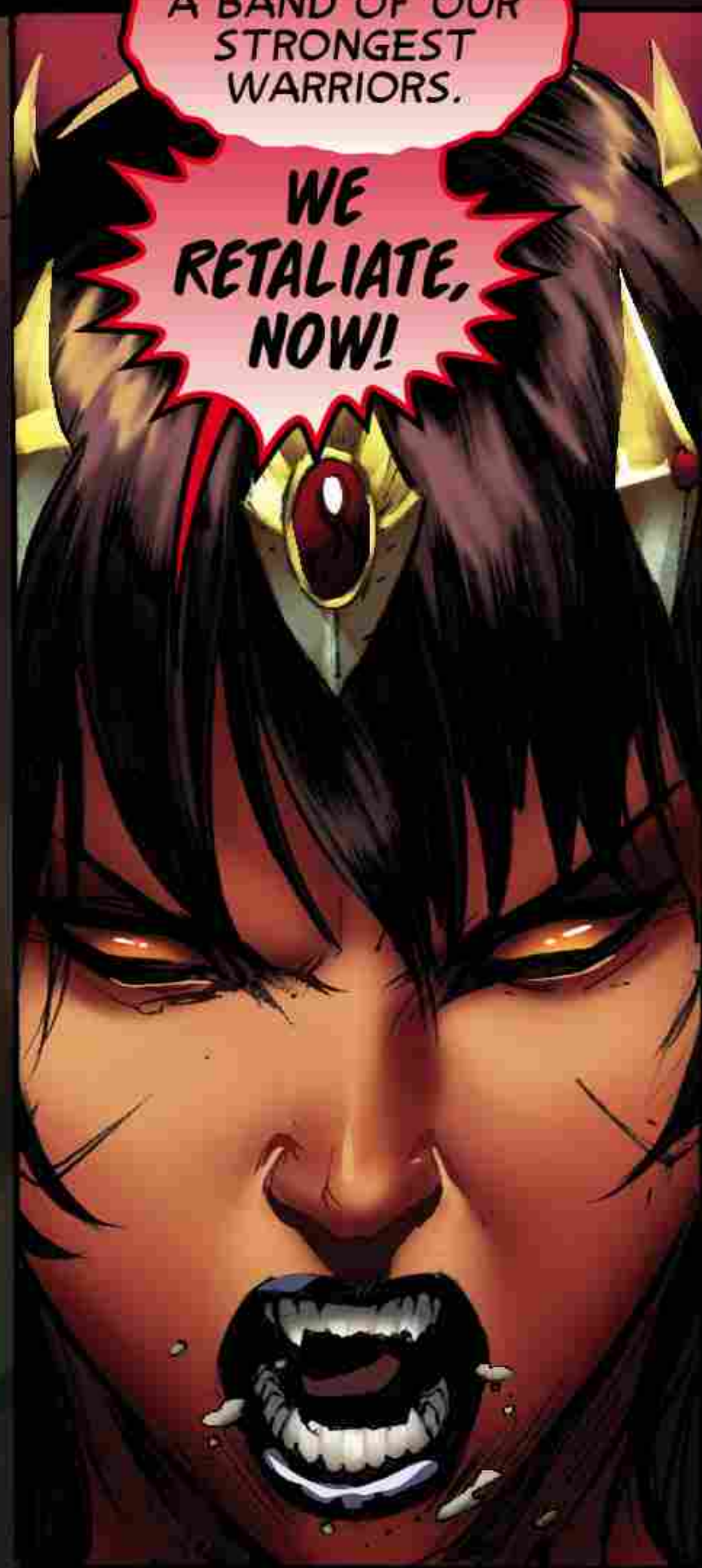
LATER, I LEARNED OUR QUEEN
REACTED TO THE NEWS WITH
DIGNITY AND POISE.

**GODLESS,
GOAT-SUCKING,
PIG
FUCKERS!**

THE
KILLZAN HIVE
DARES TO
RAID OUR
TERRITORY!

ASSEMBLE
A BAND OF OUR
STRONGEST
WARRIORS.

**WE
RETALIATE,
NOW!**



HAVING PROVEN MYSELF
IN COMBAT, I ASKED TO
TAKE MY RIGHTFUL PLACE
AMONG THE WARRIOR
CASTE. BUT THE QUEEN
WAS DEAF TO MY PLEAS.



INSTEAD, I BECAME
A BETTER CLASS OF SLAVE--
A SPEAR RUNNER. SERVANT
TO THE **BLOOD SPILLERS.**

THERE SHE IS BOYS.

DESTROY THAT TOWER AND WE'LL SNUFF OUT THE KILLZAN'S PRECIOUS 'LECTRICITY FOR MONTHS.

SEE HOW THEY LIKE SHITTING IN THE DARK.

LISTEN, BROTHERS. GIVE ME A CHANCE AND I'LL BLAST THAT TOWER BACK TO THE OLD GODS. AND ANY KILLZAN IN MY WAY WILL TASTE COLD STEEL.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

MY SPEECH DIDN'T IMPRESS THEM MUCH.

THEY ORDERED ME TO STAY BEHIND... CARE FOR THE BEASTS.

UGGGG!

SPLUUT

I SOON MISSED MUCKING THE PAIN PITS.

THE WARRIORS DIDN'T RETURN FOR HOURS.

SOMETHING HAD GONE WRONG.



ONE LAST TIME, THEN
I START CUTTING, HAXAN.
WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR
HIVE BROTHERS?

SEEING AS
WE FED 'EM TO A PACK
OF HUNGRY SPIDOCKS,
BY NOW YOUR BROTHERS
AREN'T NOTHING BUT
A *SHIT PILE*.



BACKWATER
TRASH. YOU'LL
PAY FOR...WHAT
THE--?



SHIT PILE!

--HOLY
FUCK!

SETTING THE SPIDOCES
ON FIRE WAS EASY.
RAMMING A FISTFUL
OF BOOM POWDER
DOWN THEIR THROATS...
NOT SO MUCH.

KA-BOOM!

GAAAA!

THE KILLZAN WERE
TOO BUSY WRITHING
IN AGONY TO NOTICE
ME SLIP PAST THEM.

SCRRAAW!

BUT I'D SAY THE
DISTRACTION WORKED.

COME ON,
YOU REEKING SLUG.
JUST A BIT
CLOSER...



ALL THAT CURSED
ENERGY WELLED UP
INSIDE OF ME...



EVERY OUNCE
OF HATE PUMPING
THROUGH MY
HEART...I LET
IT ALL OUT.

RAAAAAAAAAAH!



AND IT WAS
A THING
OF BEAUTY.



FOOOOOM



THE QUEEN HAD A UNIQUE WAY OF SHOWING APPRECIATION.

SORRY GIRL, BUT WE CAN'T LET YOUR LITTLE HEROICS SAVE YOU. YOU'RE A SLAVE WHO DISOBEYED THE HIVE...TWICE! SO NOW YOU MUST PAY THE PRICE.

WE'LL TOSS WHAT'S LEFT OF YOU TO THE PITS--A MESSAGE TO ALL WHO WOULD DEFY THEIR QUEEN.

AYE, A RIGHTEOUS PLAN, YOUR MAJESTY. BUT IF I MAY, THE LOWER CASTES LOVE THAT GIRL. BUTCHERING HER UP LIKE A FATTENED MAGGOT, MIGHT STIR THEM UP.

BUT IF SHE WERE TO FALL IN THE ARENA? SAY FIGHTING FOR THE HONOR OF THE HIVE?

OH, DRADD, THAT'S BEAUTIFUL. I LOVE HOW YOUR TWISTED MIND WORKS. MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS AT ONCE.

BESIDES, IT'S GREEDY OF ME TO KEEP THE GIRL FOR MYSELF...

"...WHEN SHE
CAN BLEED FOR
EVERYONE'S
AMUSEMENT."

NEVER BEEN
SO FAR FROM THE
HIVE BEFORE.

THERE ARE
WORSE PLACES
THAN YOUR HIVE.
I'M AFRAID YOU'LL
SOON LEARN
THAT FIRST
HAND.

NOW
LET'S LOOK
AT THOSE
WOUNDS.

NEVER HAD SOMEONE
WORRY ABOUT ME
BEFORE.

IT A HEALER'S
JOB TO WORRY.
I EXIST TO
SERVE WHOEVER
THE QUEEN
WISHES.

YOU WANT
TO SERVE ME,
HUH?

LET'S
START BY
GETTING
YOU...



WHA--?
THAT IS
BIG!

LET'S
JUST SAY, YOU
AREN'T THE
ONLY SPECIAL
ONE.

AMONG
MY PEOPLE, I'M
AN OUTCAST...
A FREAK.
WHAT DO YOU
THINK?

DO
I *FEEL* LIKE
A FREAK?



WHATEVER
YOU'RE DOING, STOP.
I GOT WORDS FOR
YOU...



THERE BE PROPHECIES
CLAIMING A SLAVE WILL
RISE UP, TO USURP THE
WINGED QUEEN AND
PURGE *HELL* WITH
SACRED FIRE.

WELL,
I'VE THROWN THE
BONES. AND YOU AIN'T
THE ONE, GIRLIE. SO
YOU GOT ONE CHANCE
IN THE ARENA...

"START
PRAYING.



I TOOK DRADD'S
ADVICE AND
PLEADED TO THE
OLD GODS. I
DIDN'T PRAY TO BE
THEIR CHOSEN ONE.

I PRAYED TO CRACK
SOME DEMON SKULLS.

AFTER ALL, THIS
WASN'T A HELLBOURNE
ARENA BUILT ON
HALLOWED GROUND.

IT WAS AN UNHOLY
DEMONIC FIGHT PIT FULL
OF SCREAMING HEATHENS.

CRAAAAACK



I PUT DOWN A SCORE
OF THEIR DOGS.



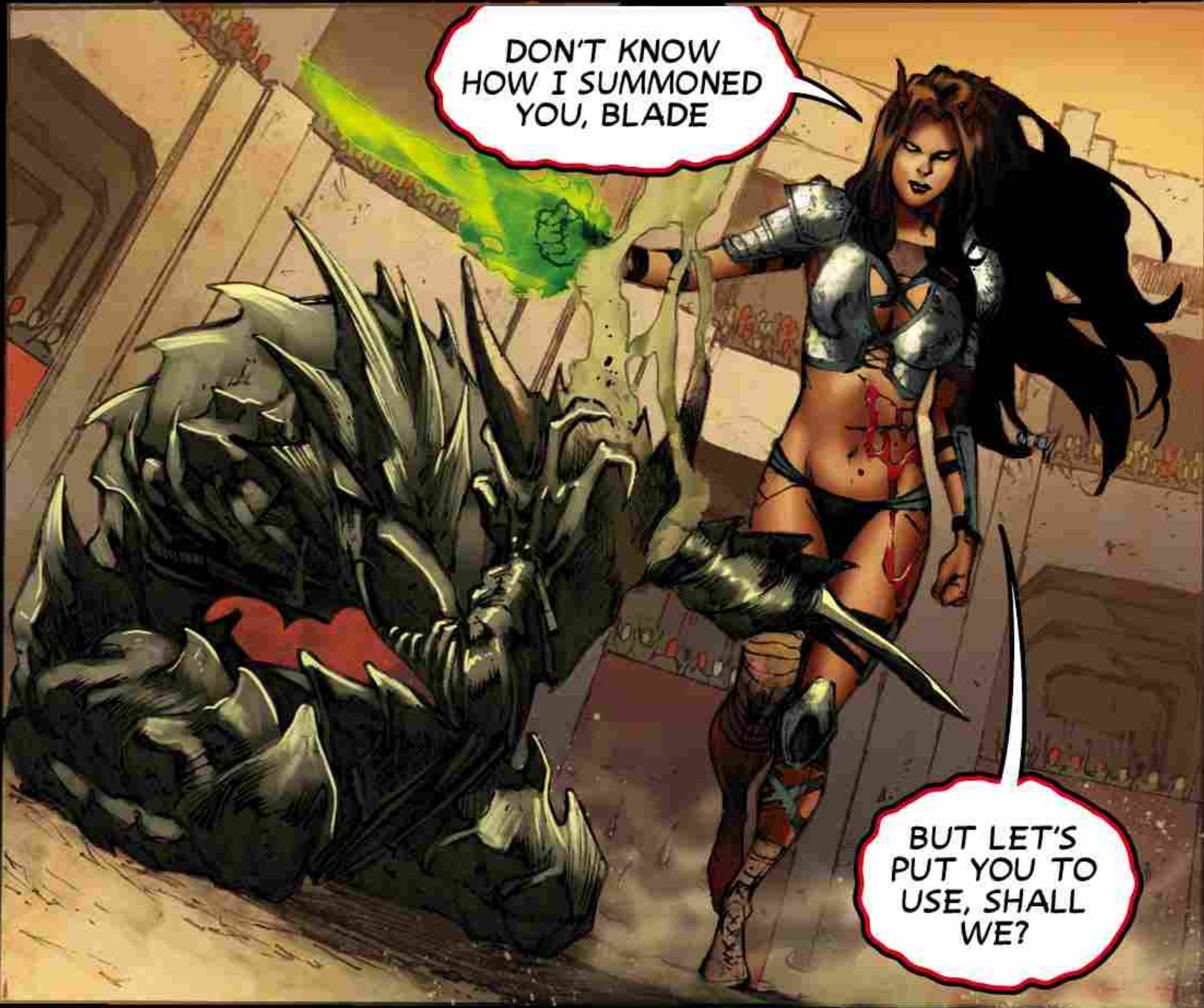


THE CROWD
CRIED OUT
FOR BLOOD.



AND MY BODY
LISTENED.

BY THE
HIVE!



DON'T KNOW
HOW I SUMMONED
YOU, BLADE

BUT LET'S
PUT YOU TO
USE, SHALL
WE?



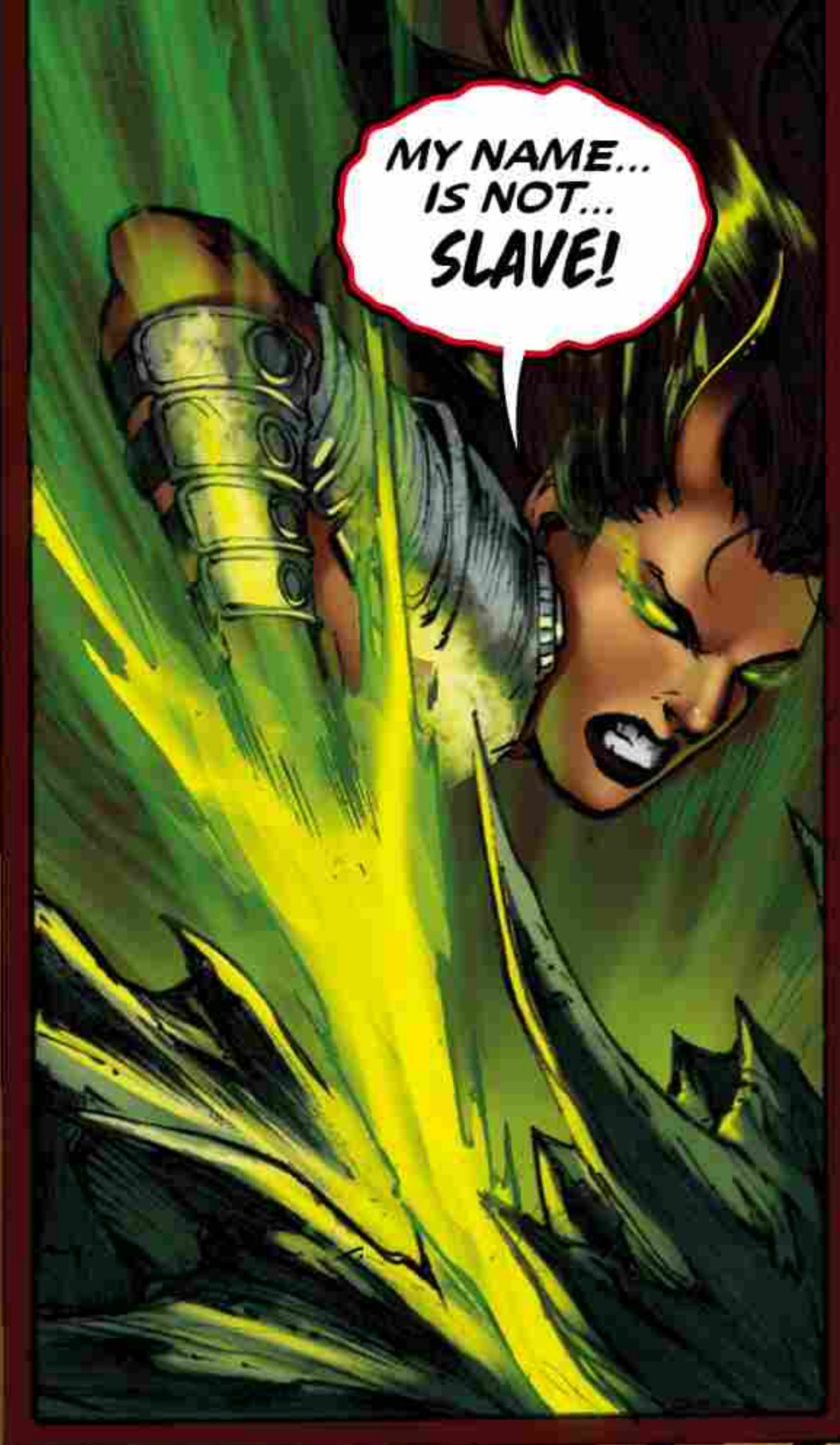
PLEASE TELL
ME YOUR FIGHTER
WON'T DECAPITATE
MY BELOVED
PET?

I'VE SPENT
FAR TOO MUCH
TO SEE HIM
GO TO THE
PITS.

OF COURSE,
MY DEAR. CONSIDER
HIS LIFE A GIFT
FROM MY PEOPLE
TO YOURS.

STAY
YOUR BLADE,
SLAVE. I
NEED TO...





MY NAME...
IS NOT...
SLAVE!

FROM THIS
MOMENT FORTH,
I TAKE THE
NAME...

HELLWITCH!

HELLWITCH!

HELLWITCH!

HELLWITCH!
HELLWITCH!

HELLWITCH!
HELLWITCH!

FILTHY
HELLBOURNE
SKANK. EITHER
SHE PAYS FOR
WHAT SHE'S
DONE...

OR YOUR
WHOLE
FUCKING HIVE
WILL.



I'VE SAID IT BEFORE--DEMONS ARE ABOMINATIONS AND SHOULD BE DRIVEN SCREAMING FROM HELL.

BUT THEY DO KNOW HOW TO REWARD THEIR WINNERS.



WHAT YOU DID IN THE ARENA... IT WAS...



BRAVE?

I WAS GOING TO SAY PURE IDIOTCY.

CHALLENGING THE QUEEN LIKE THAT...I'M AFRAID SHE'LL *HURT* YOU FOR THIS.

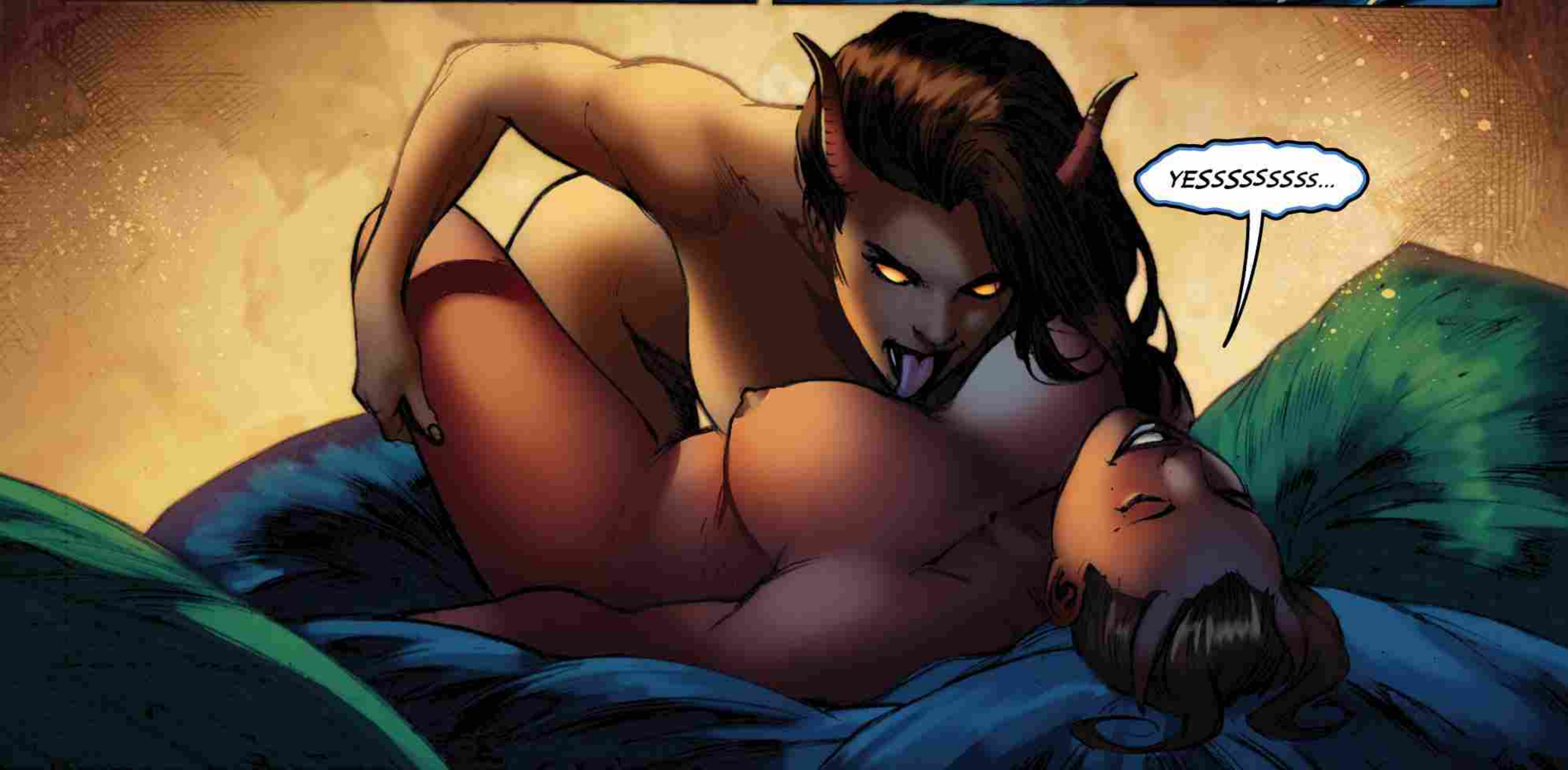
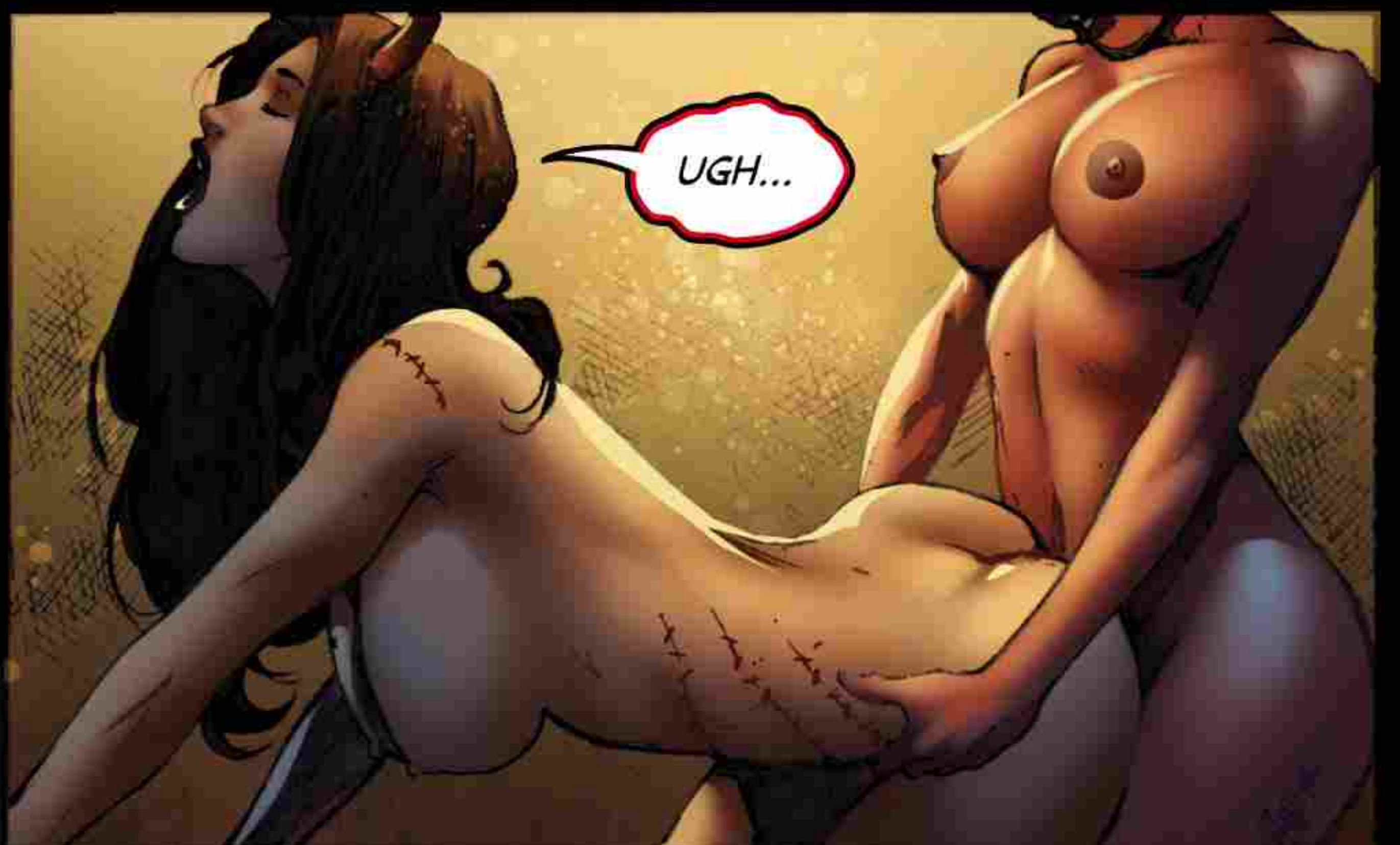


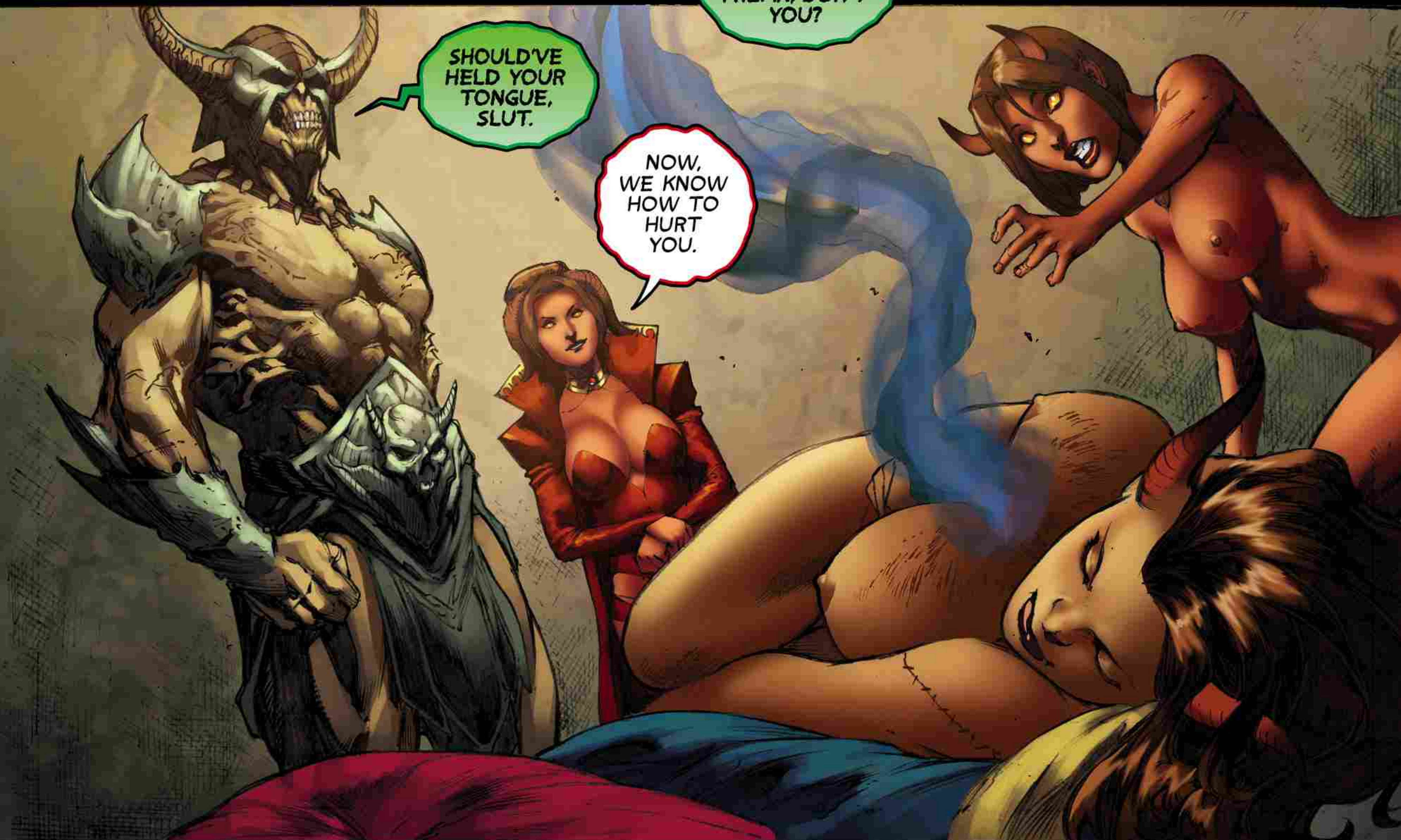
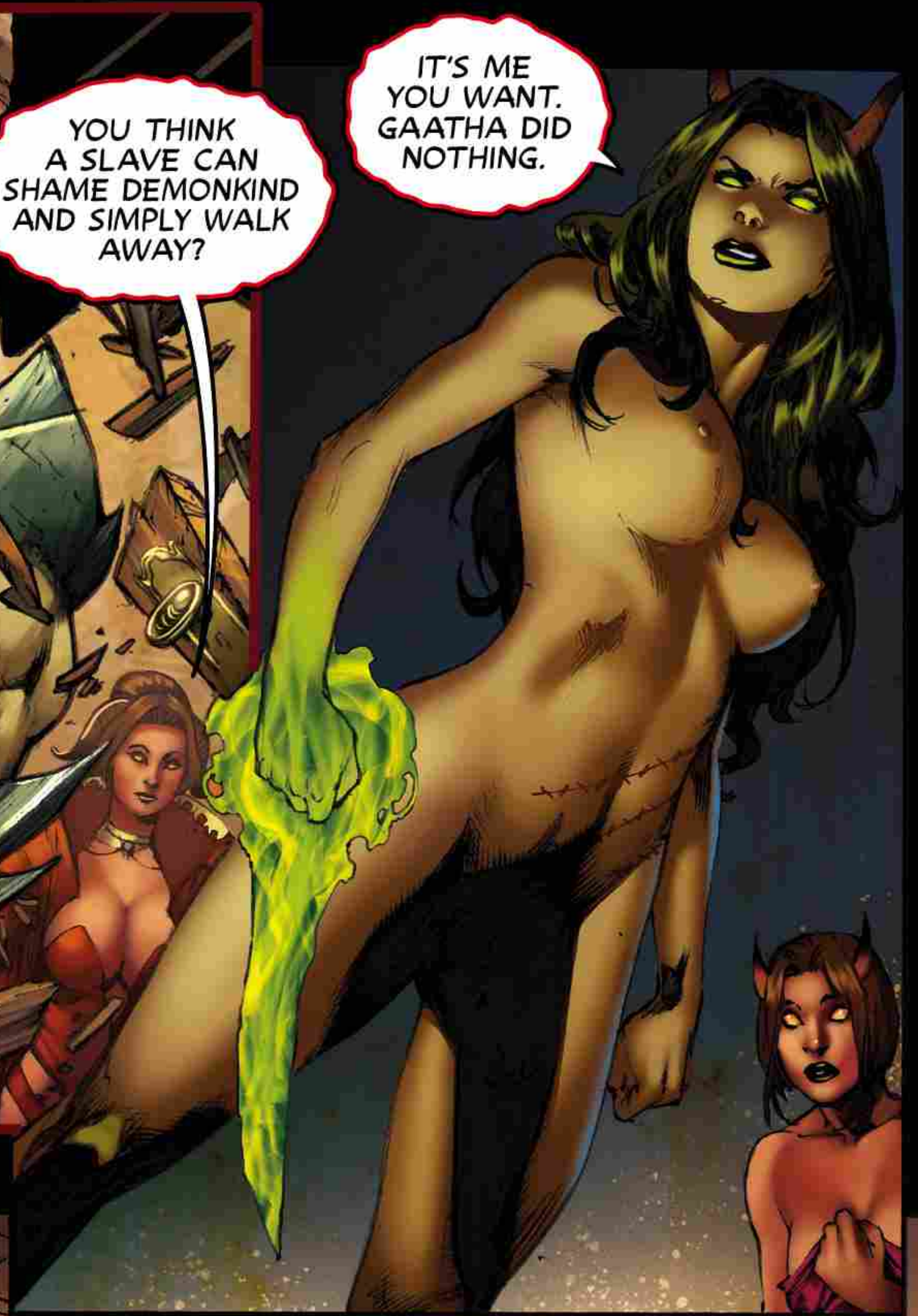
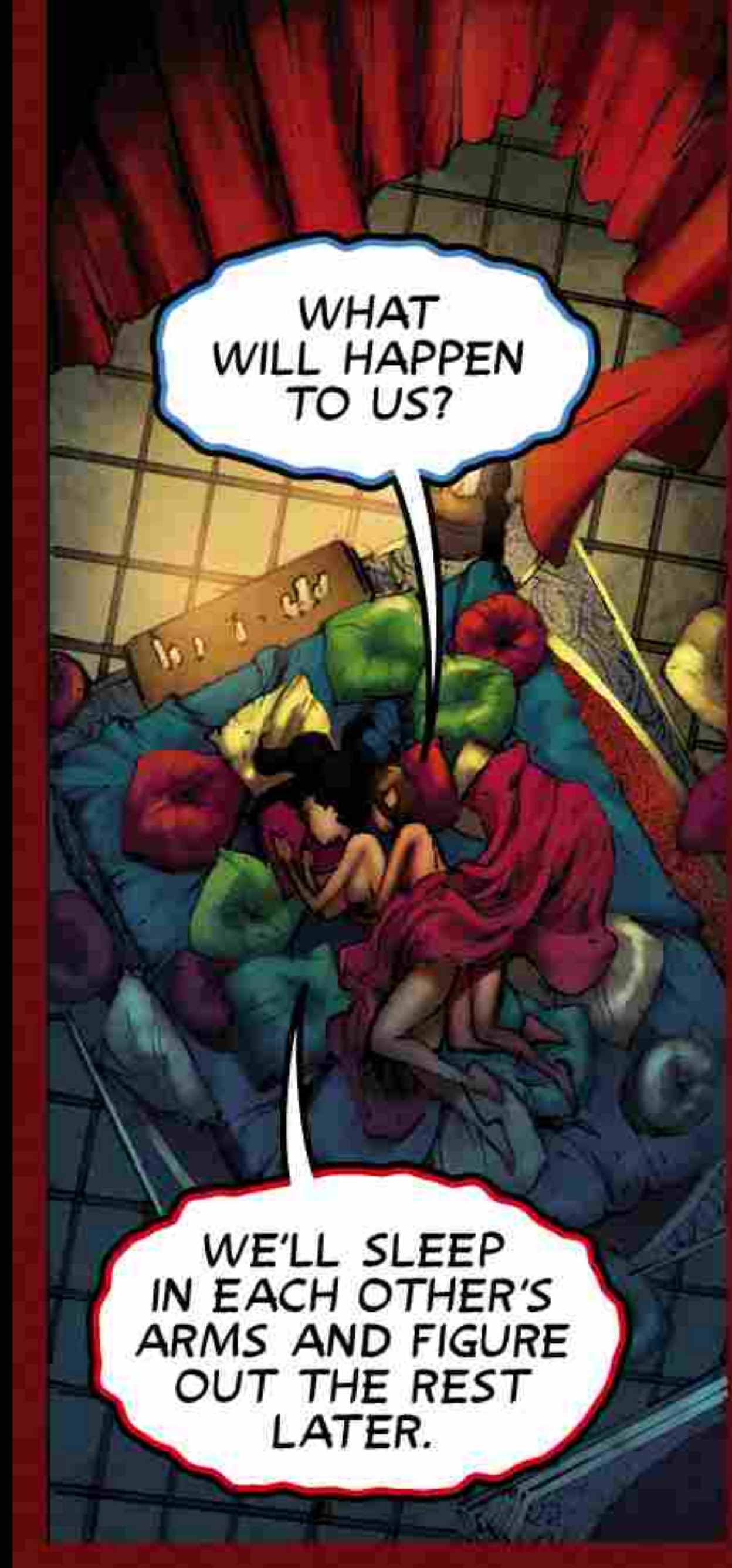
THEN WE BEST NOT WASTE ANY MORE TIME.

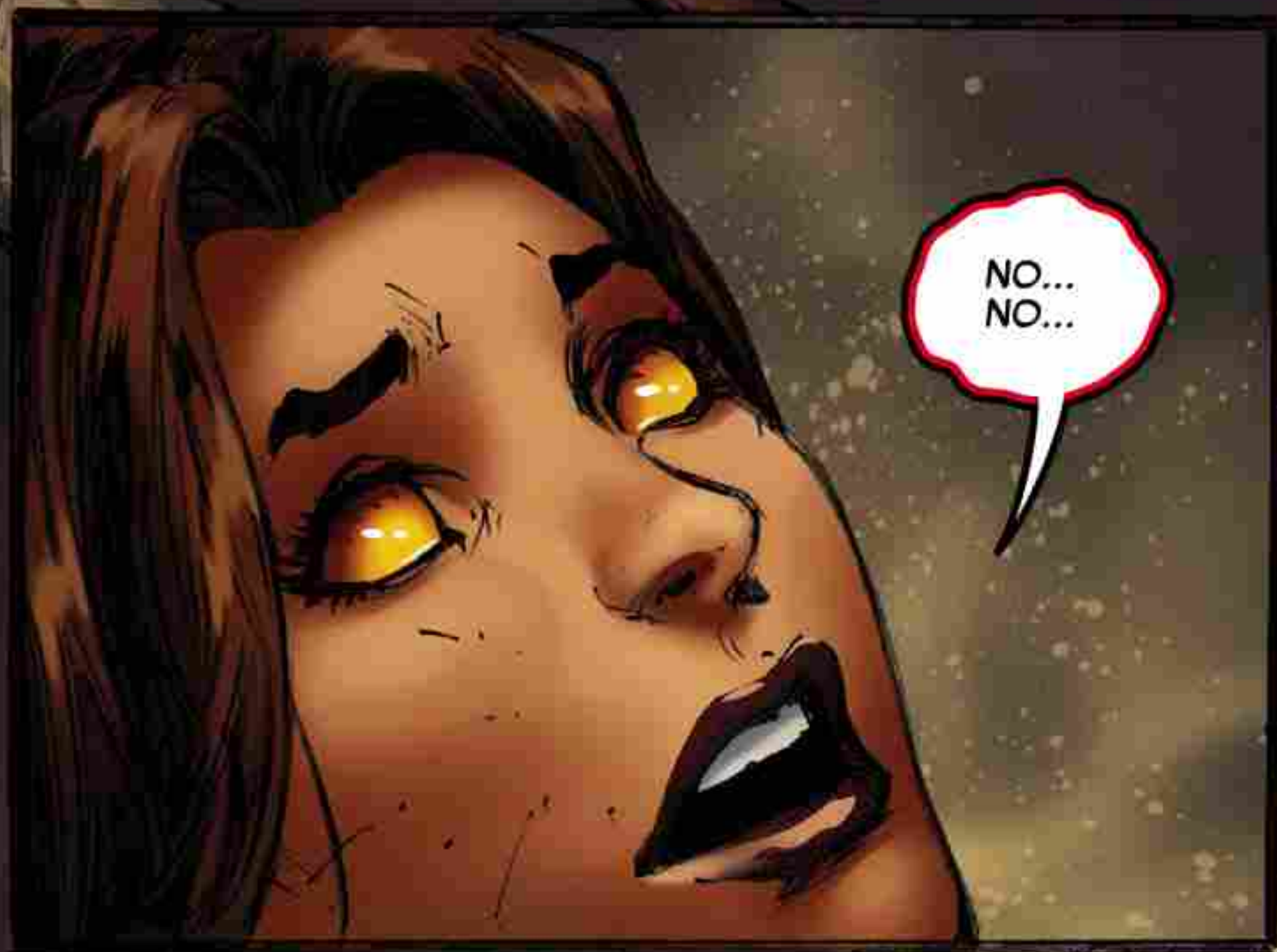


YOU'VE THOUGHT THIS THROUGH, RIGHT? YOU KNOW...I'M NOT LIKE OTHER FEMALES.

SHUT UP AND PROVE IT.



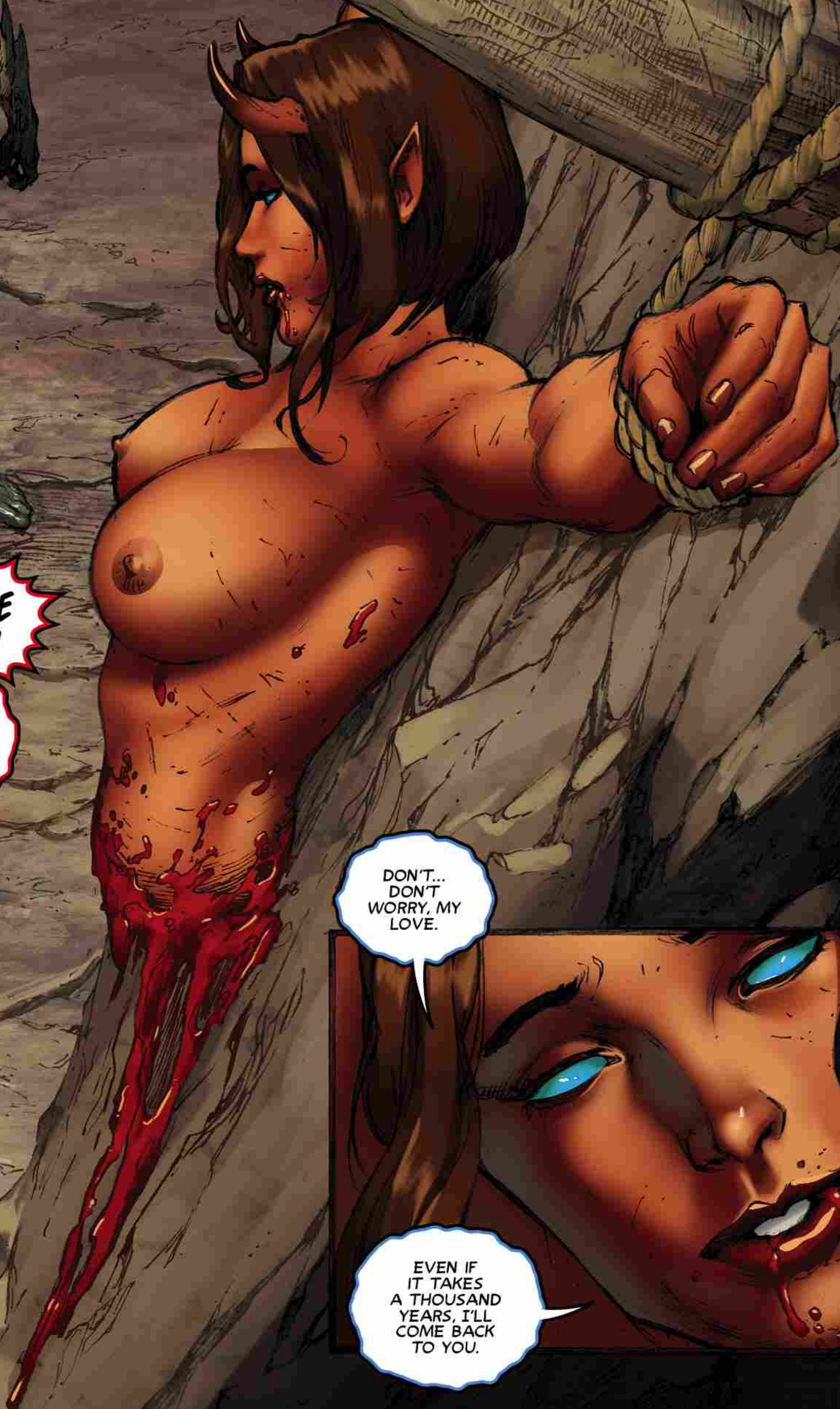




NO...
NO...



BY THE
HIVE!
THIS
CAN'T BE
HAPPENING.
PLEASE,
NO.



DON'T...
DON'T
WORRY, MY
LOVE.



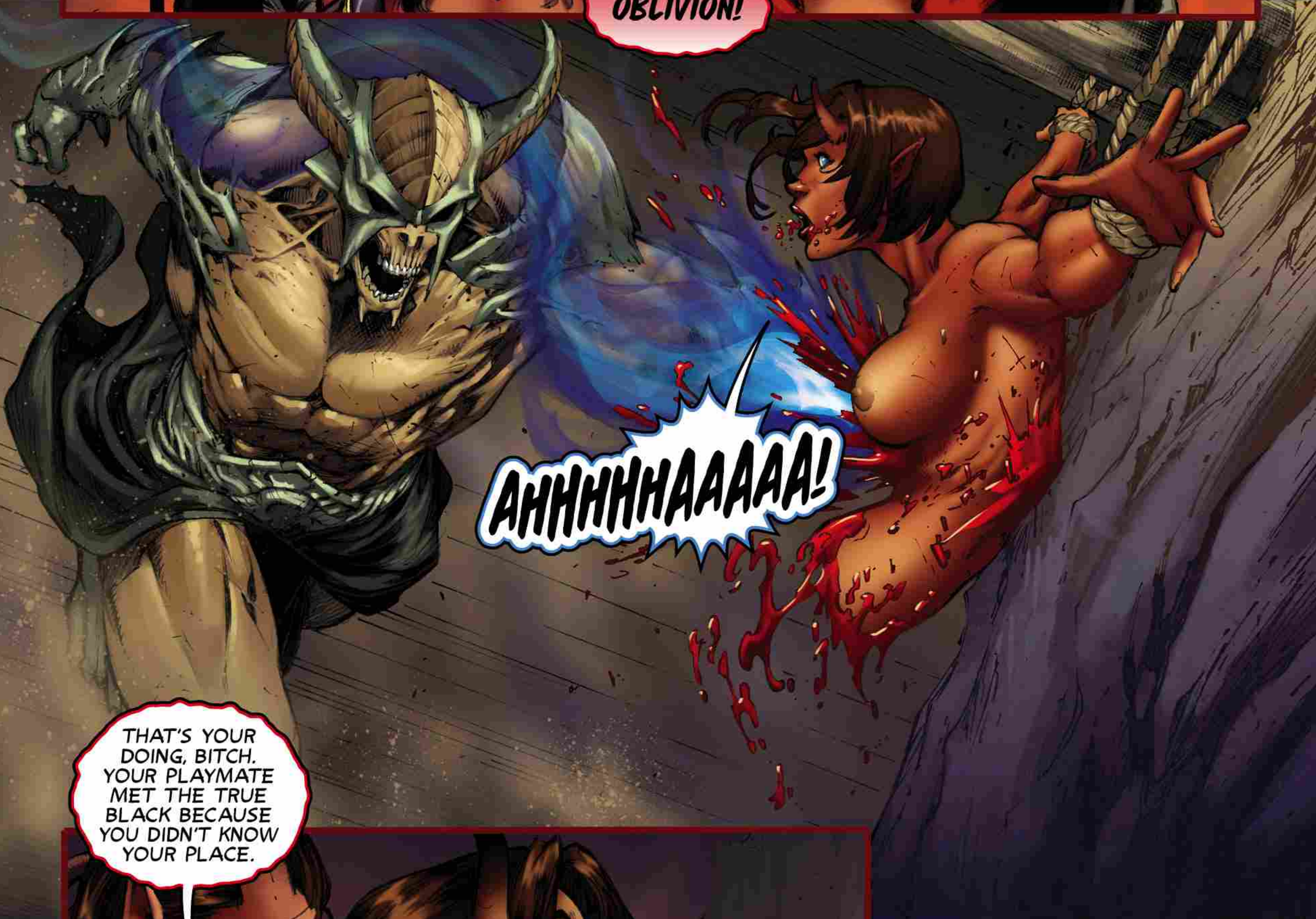
EVEN IF
IT TAKES
A THOUSAND
YEARS, I'LL
COME BACK
TO YOU.



NO. YOU WON'T.

ONLY ONE THING WAITS FOR YOU, FREAK.

OBLIVION!



THAT'S YOUR DOING, BITCH. YOUR PLAYMATE MET THE TRUE BLACK BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOUR PLACE.



I SWEAR. YOU'LL BURN FOR THIS. **FUCKING BURN!**

DEFIANT TO THE END. WHAT DO YOU THINK MY DEMONIC FRIENDS? TO THE PITS WITH HER?



OH, YESSSS. SO DELICIOUS. IT'LL MORE THAN MAKE UP FOR MY LOST PET.



ONE LAST
THING BEFORE
YOU GO...

I'LL MAKE
SURE THE WHOLE
HIVE KNOWS THE UGLY
TRUTH...THAT **YOU**
MURDERED GAATHA
AFTER DISCOVERING
HER LITTLE
SECRET.

WELL,
IT WASN'T
SO LITTLE,
WAS IT?



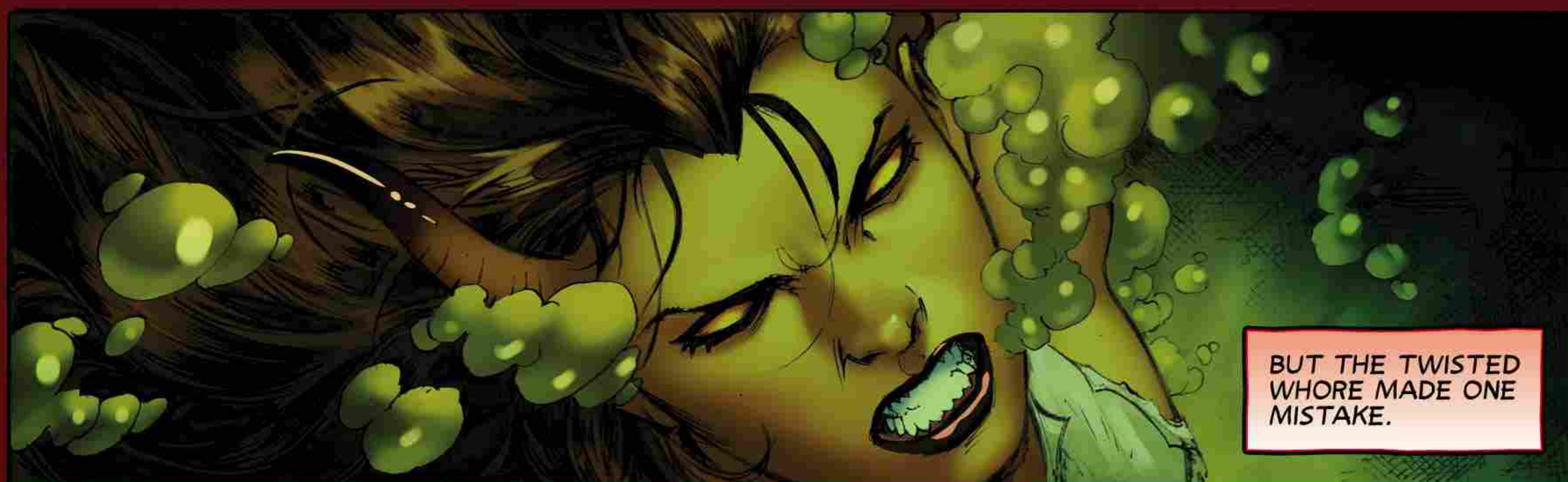
THINK ON
THAT FOR THE
NEXT THOUSAND
YEARS.

ONNA'S WORDS
CUT DEEPER
THAN ANY BLADE.

SHE WANTED HER
LIES TO TARNISH
WHAT GAATHA
AND I SHARED
TOGETHER.



TO TORMENT ME...
TO HAUNT MY ENDLESS
TIME IN THE PITS...



BUT THE TWISTED
WHORE MADE ONE
MISTAKE.

HER TAUNT DIDN'T
DROWN ME IN DESPAIR.

ARRRGH!

IT FILLED ME
WITH *HATE*.



SO HONORED
TO HAVE DEMONKIND
GRACE OUR HUMBLE
HIVE.

YOU'RE TOO
KIND. AND TO WELCOME
US INTO YOUR HIVE JUST
AS THE HELLBOURNE HAS
WELCOMED US TO HELL?
TRULY GENEROUS.

I CAN
HARDLY WAIT TO
SEE WHAT OTHER
GIFTS YOU HAVE
FOR US.

HOW'S
THIS FOR
A GIFT?

YOU?
BUT...THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE. THE
PITS SHOULD'VE
HELD YOU FOR
A MILLENNIA.

BEFORE HIS HEAD
ROLLED ACROSS THE
FLOOR, YOUR SHAMAN
TALKED. THE **PROPHECIES**
WERE TRUE. A SLAVE
WOULD RISE TO CLAIM
THE WINGED ONE'S
THRONE...

...AND
PURGE
ALL OF
HELL!



NOW TO ALL THE DEMON SCUM IN THE ROOM...IF YOU LEAVE THIS INSTANT, I'LL SPARE YOU. FOR **TODAY** AT LEAST.

BUT IF YOU STAY, YOU'LL SHARE THE SAME FATE AS MY TRAITOROUS, BITCH OF QUEEN.



THE DEMONS MADE THEIR CHOICE.



AND I MADE THEM PAY.



OH, I REMEMBER YOU. YOU'RE THE SPOILED CUNT WHO WATCHES HELLBOURNE BLEED FOR HER AMUSEMENT.

NOW YOU CAN BLEED FOR MINE.





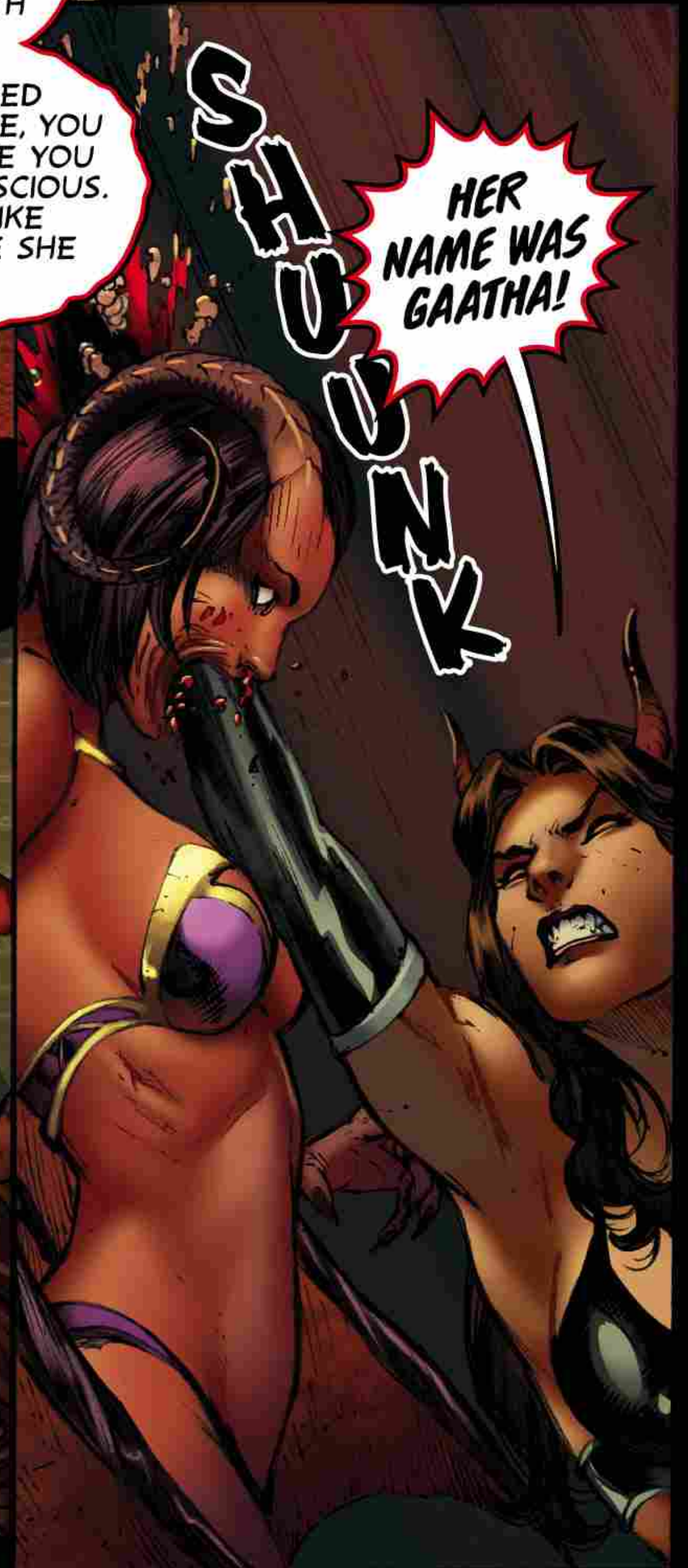
ARRRRGGGGAAA!



FUCK YOUR PROPHECY. I WILL BE QUEEN, HEAR ME? NOT SOME DIRTY SLAVE WHO LIKES TO RUT WITH MUTANTS.

SHE BEGGED FOR YOUR LIFE, YOU KNOW? WHILE YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS. BEGGED LIKE THE WHORE SHE WAS.

DIRTY LITTLE FREAK.



SHUUNK

HER NAME WAS GAATHA!



AND AT LEAST SHE BEGGED FOR ME. YOU TWO HAVE NO ONE.



YOU'RE NOTHING. AND NO ONE WILL REMEMBER YOUR NAMES

I'LL SEE TO THAT.

MY, MY, MY. LOOK AT ALL THE BLOOD YOU'VE SPILLED. AND FOR WHAT? NONE OF IT WILL CHANGE A THING.

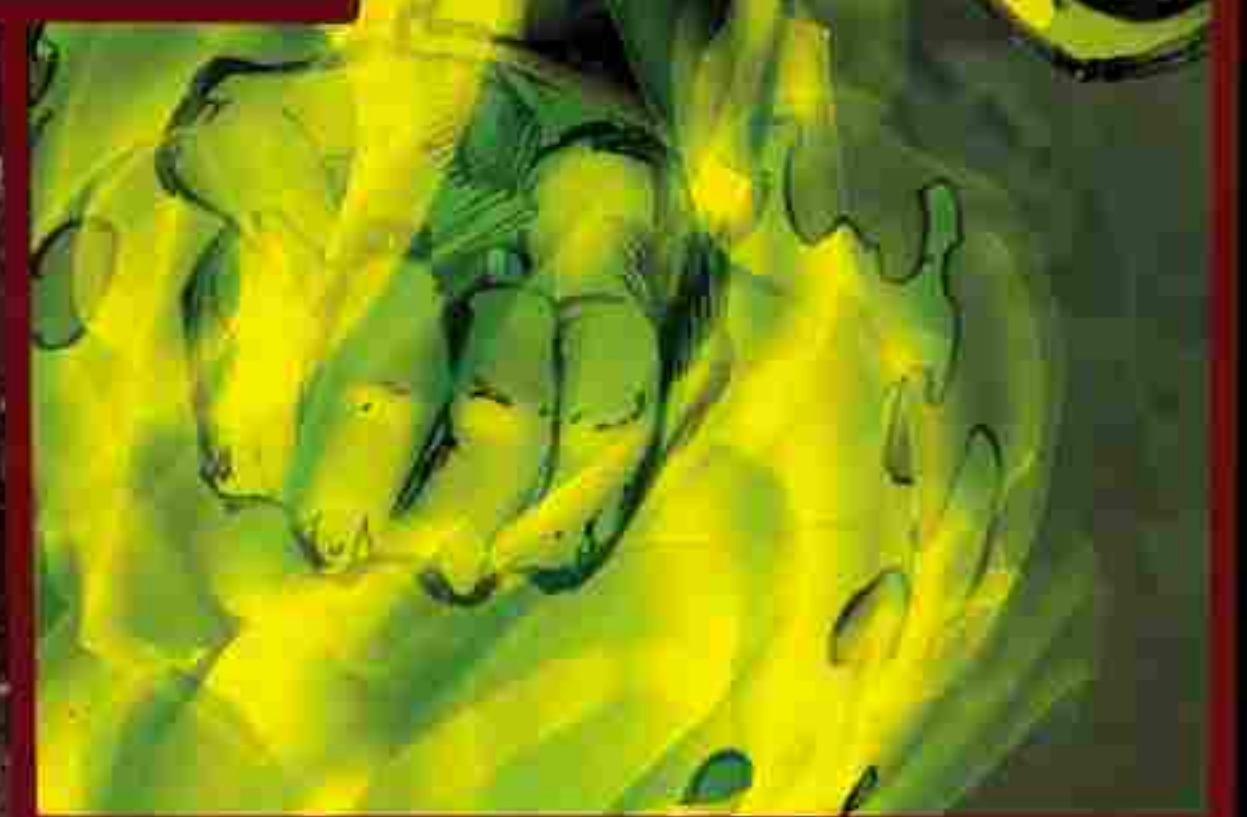
I'LL BE DAMNED IF A SHIT-BORN SLAVE TAKES MY THRONE.

SO WHY DON'T YOU MAKE THIS EASY ON EVERYONE. BOW DOWN AND LET MY WARRIORS EASE YOUR BROKEN HEART...

I HAVE A BETTER IDEA.

...WITH **STEEL!**

WHY DON'T I BUTCHER EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM AND BURN THE HIVE TO THE GROUND?



THERE WAS NO MORE TALK.
NO MORE BRAVADO.

SLAASH

ONLY RAGE
AND STEEL...

...AND
FIRE!

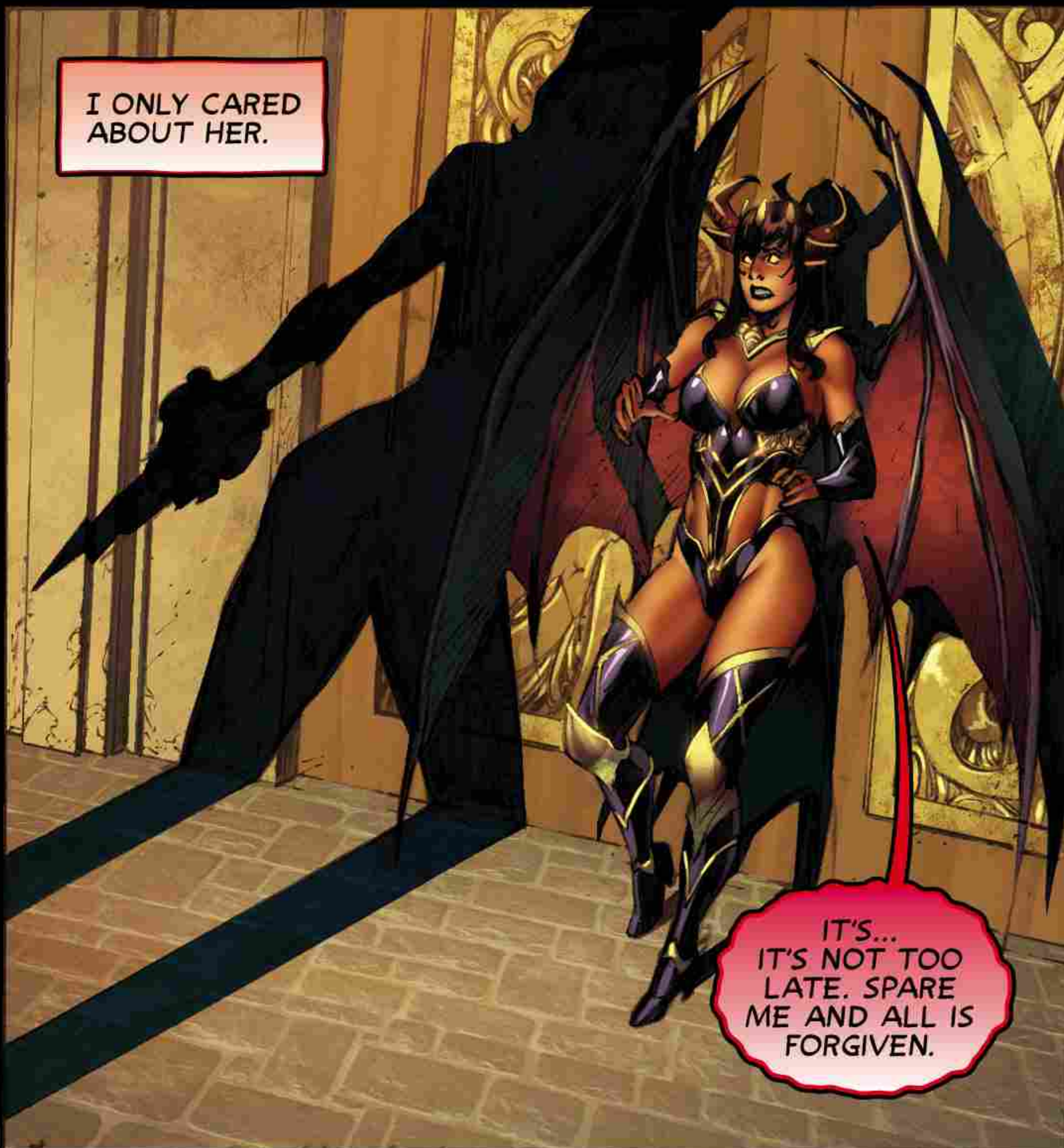
I LOST COUNT OF
HOW MANY FELL
TO MY BLADE.



THEY
MEANT
NOTHING
TO ME.



I ONLY CARED
ABOUT HER.

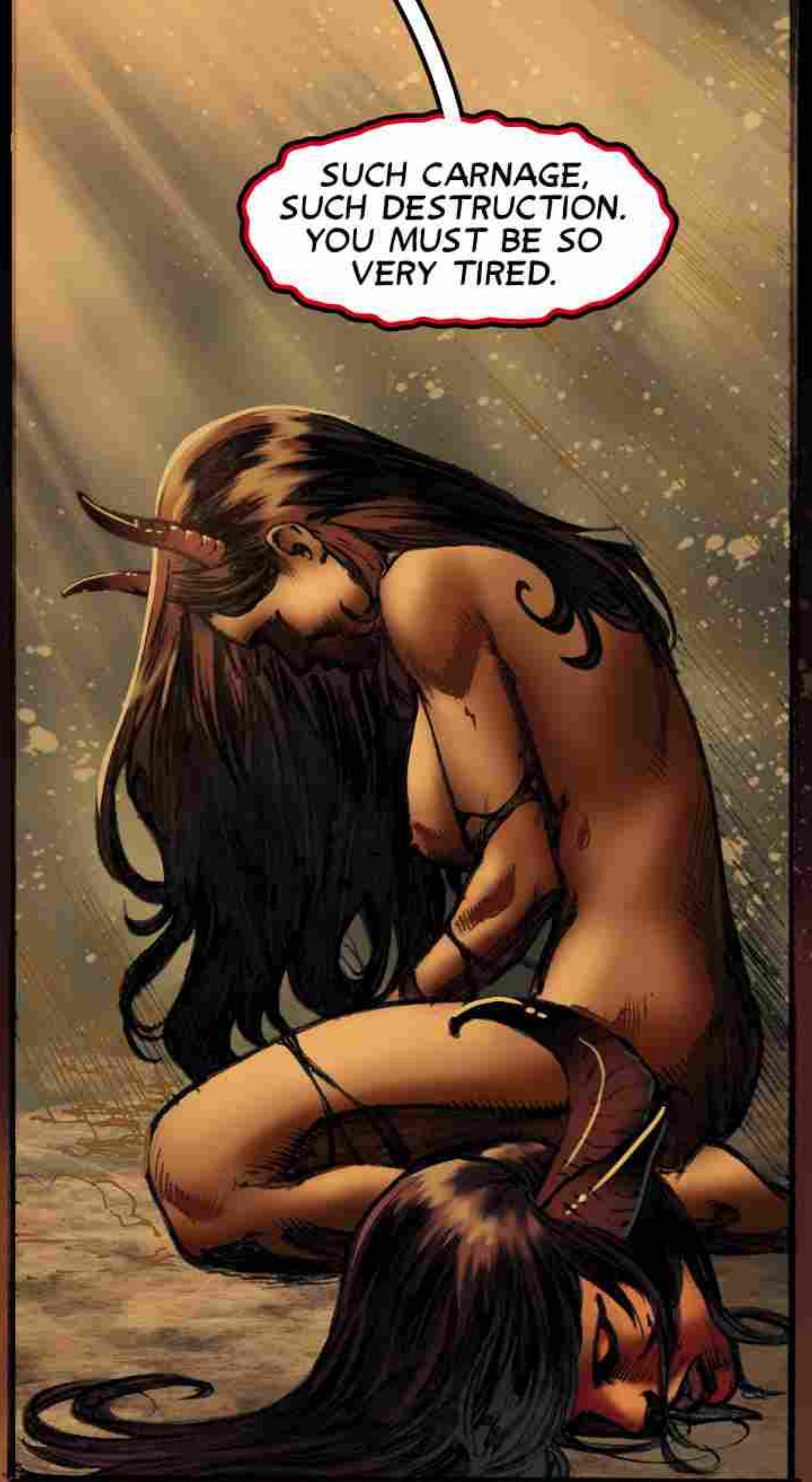
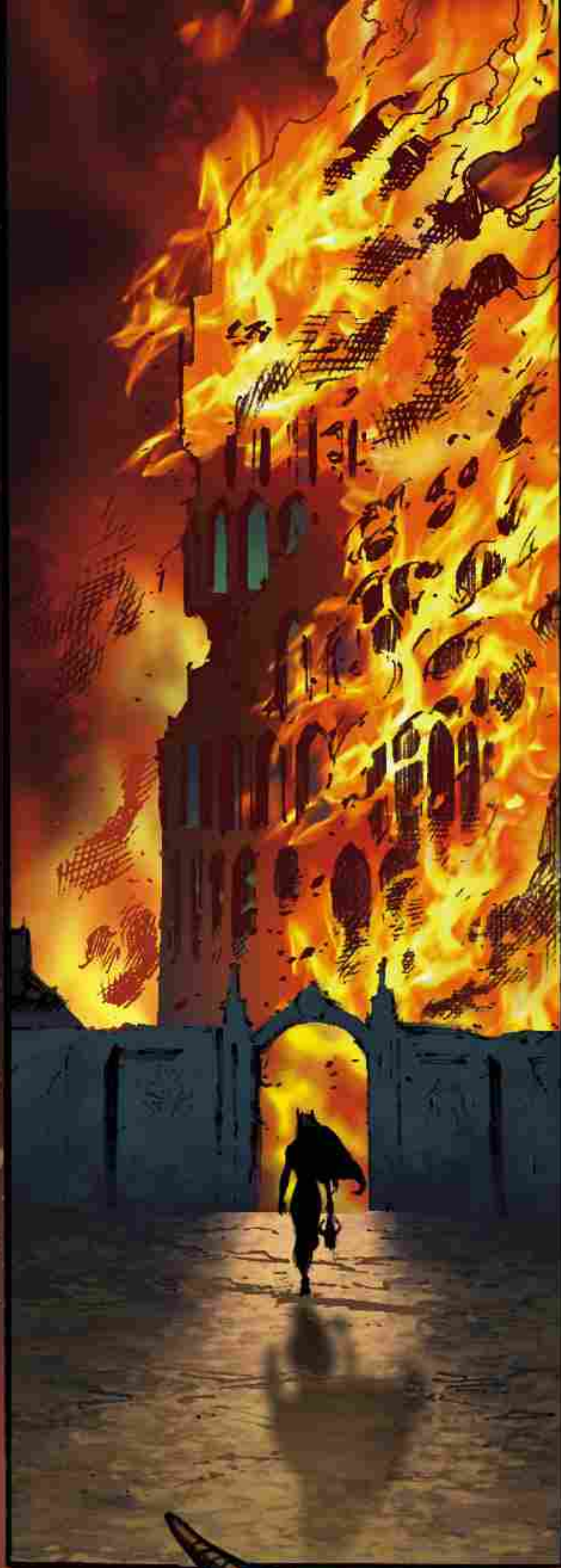


IT'S...
IT'S NOT TOO
LATE. SPARE
ME AND ALL IS
FORGIVEN.

YOU CAN TAKE
YOUR RIGHTFUL
PLACE AND RULE
BY MY SIDE.

WHAT
DO YOU SAY,
HELLWITCH?





SUCH CARNAGE,
SUCH DESTRUCTION.
YOU MUST BE SO
VERY TIRED.



SOMEONE
OF YOUR TALENTS
DOESN'T BELONG
IN SUCH A DUNG
HEAP.

YOU WANT TO
RESTORE **ORDER**?
BRING GLORY TO
THE HELLBOURNE?
SIMPLY TAKE MY
HAND.

AND
I SWEAR,
YOU SHALL
NEVER BOW
AGAIN.

Now.

YOU KEPT
YOUR PROMISE,
SEANCE. I NEVER
BOWED. NOT
ONCE.

WHAT'S SHE
SAYING?

IT DOESN'T MATTER.
WE NEED TO FINISH
THE INCANTATION OR
SHE'LL BE LOST.

MY HEALERS. THEY
TRY THEIR DAMNEDEST
TO SAVE ME.

AT ANY COST.

AAA
BUT THEY COULD STEAL
THE LIFE FORCE OF A
THOUSAND WARRIORS AND
IT WOULDN'T MATTER.

THE DARKNESS
WON'T BE DENIED.

THEY BURY MY BODY
DEEP, SPARING ME
FROM THE PAIN PITS.

NO HEADSTONE...
NO MARKER...
A SLAVE'S GRAVE.

NO.

NO! THIS WILL
NOT BE MY FATE.

I AM THE
REBORN!

HELLWITCH
THE PURGE
BRINGER!

AND I SWEAR--
EVEN IF I MUST TRACK
HER FOR A THOUSAND
YEARS--**LADY DEATH** AND
HER WRETCHED OFFSPRING
WILL MEET OBLIVION
BY MY HAND!

The beginning.
HELLWITCH
will return!

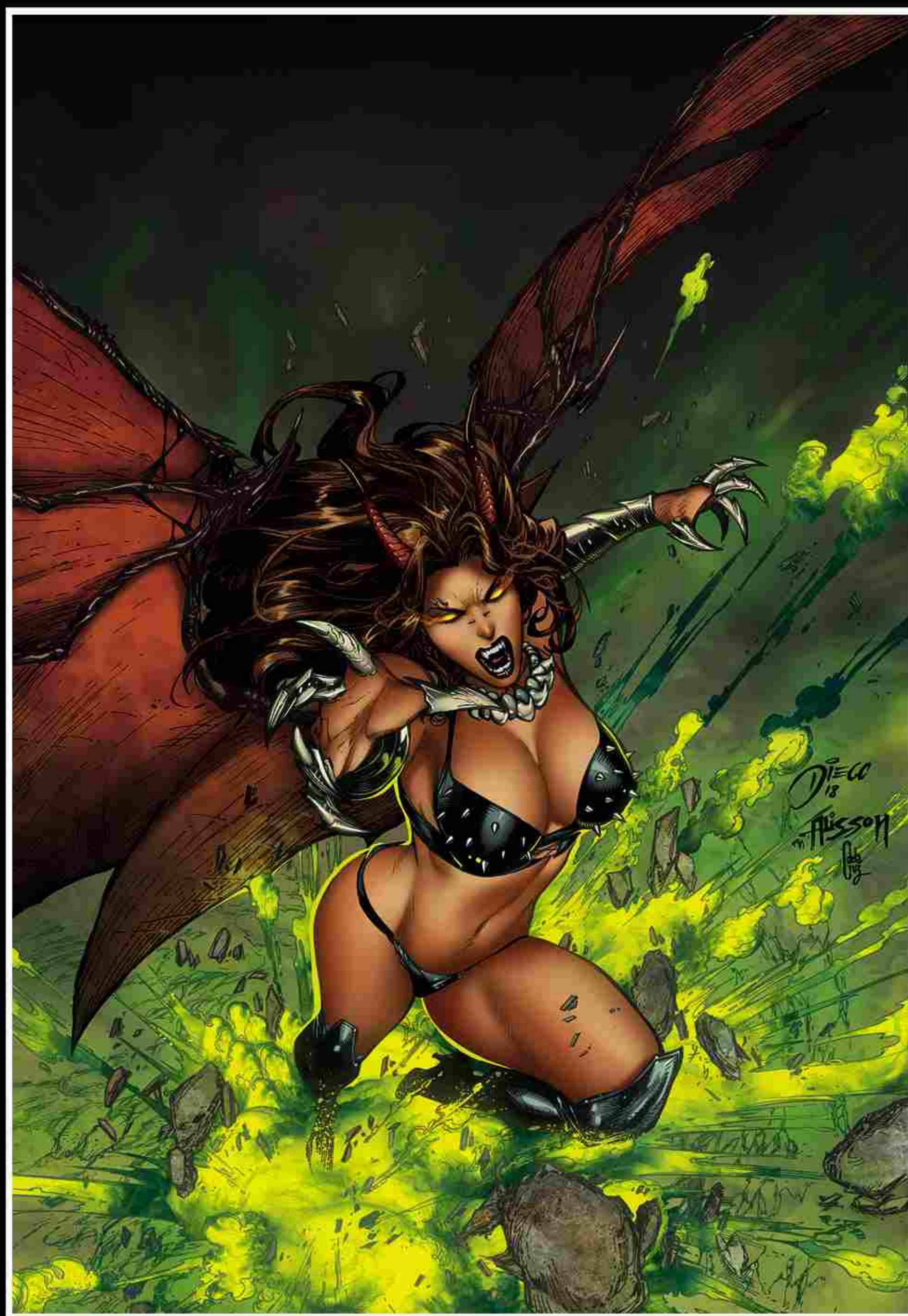
HELLWITCH®

HELLBOURNE #1

CHAPTER 1

Hellwitch wasn't always the dominant Hellbourne leader she is today, able to go toe to toe against Lady Death. In her humble past, Hellwitch began life as a lowly hatchling, the lowest caste in the magnificent Hellhive, destined forever to be a pit slave, discarding body parts in the pain pits. But, through sheer drive and determination she rises through the castes to become a warrior, to take a lover, to gain respect.

But the hive queen takes notice and makes Hellwitch's life an unbearable Hell. Can a lowly rebel pit slave topple a mighty hierarchy out to crush her?



D.R. & QUINCH



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